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CAPTAIN SCIENCE

# CAPTAIN SCIENCE

NO.5 10¢

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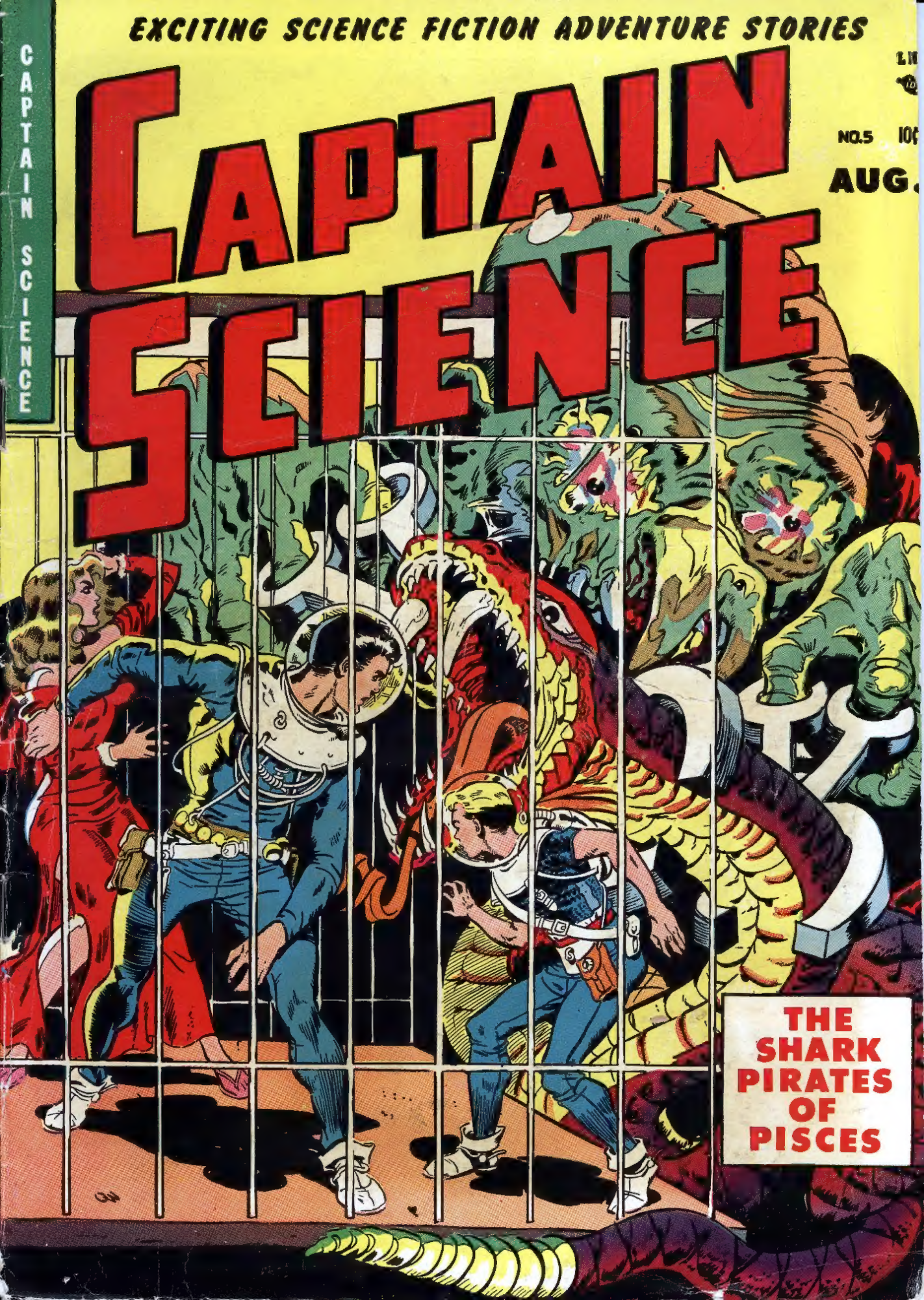

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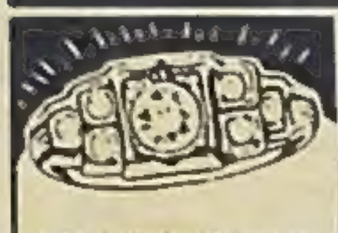


**153.** Ladies' solitaire ring. Large brilliant simulated diamond in center, 6 smaller stones. Yellow or white gold color effect.

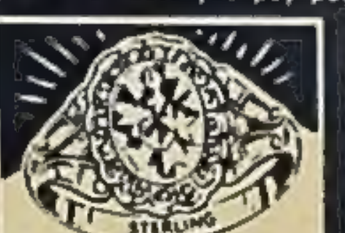
**128.** Men's birthstone ring. Large beautiful stone in red ruby, green emerald, blue sapphire, etc. 10 Kt gold sides on Sterling Silver mounting.

**105.** Ladies' wedding ring. 10 brilliant, simulated diamonds. 1/30 14Kt gold or Sterling Silver.

**120.** Men's massive Sterling Silver signet ring. Suitable for engraving initials.

**169.** Ladies' engagement solitaire ring. Large, simulated diamond, 2 smaller stones. 1/20 14Kt gold filled or 1/30 14Kt RGP.

**156.** Men's massive "Good Luck Horseshoe" ring. 4-leaf clover. White or yellow gold color effect.



**146.** Ladies' dinner ring. Gorgeous, large, simulated diamond and many smaller stones. Sterling Silver.

**114.** Very Special! A GENUINE diamond! Ladies' solitaire ring. 10Kt solid yellow gold mounting.

**172.** Men's massive cameo ring. Simulated diamond in corner. White gold color effect. Also in ladies' size.

**112.** Men's exquisite Masonic ring. 1/20 12Kt yellow gold filled or Sterling Silver or 1/30 14Kt RGP.

**130.** Men's ring. Unusual design. 1 large stone with 6 small-size stones. Yellow or white gold plate over Sterling Silver.

**102.** Ladies' exquisite engagement ring. Large, brilliant, simulated diamond, Sterling Silver.

**119.** Men's ring. Large, brilliant, simulated diamond. Massive gold color effect mounting.

**157.** Men's beautiful, heavy cameo ring. Large 2-toned faced cameo. Sterling Silver or 1/30 14Kt yellow or white gold color effect.

**148.** Ladies' wedding band. 7 matching, brilliant, simulated diamonds. White or yellow gold color effect.

**162.** Men's massive lion-head ring. Large, simulated diamond in mouth, 2 smaller red stones in eyes. 1/30 14Kt gold RGP.

**115.** Ladies' engagement ring. Large, brilliant, simulated diamond and many smaller stones. Unusual step design. Sterling Silver.

**116.** Ladies' exquisite wedding ring. 9 or 7 matching, simulated diamonds all around. Fishtail setting. Sterling Silver.

**150.** Ladies' engagement solitaire ring. Large, brilliant, simulated diamond, 6 smaller stones. Sterling Silver.

**171.** Ladies' engagement ring. Large, brilliant, simulated diamond, 4 smaller stones. 1/30 12Kt RGP.

**170.** Ladies' wedding ring. 6 brilliant, good-sized, matching, simulated diamonds. 1/30 12Kt RGP.

**127.** Men's ring. Beautiful, large, about 4Kt-size ruby color stone. Stone comes in all colors. Sterling Silver.

**141.** Ladies' cluster dinner ring. A beautiful gem. 7 or 12 brilliant, simulated diamonds. Pierced mounting. Sterling Silver or white gold color effect.

**104.** Ladies' gorgeous dinner ring. Brilliant, simulated diamond, 6 medium-size and many smaller stones. Sterling Silver. Very rare with so many stones.

**163.** Men's massive red stone ring. 1/20 12Kt yellow gold filled or 1/30 14Kt RGP.

**165.** Ladies' fancy cocktail ring. 1 large, simulated diamond. 10 simulated rubies, 12 white stones. Yellow gold color effect.

**164.** Men's massive veteran's discharge ring. Heavy Sterling Silver.

**166.** Men's beautiful western saddle design ring. Solid Sterling Silver or yellow gold color effect. Also in ladies' size.

**160.** Men's large square cut, simulated garnet ring. Yellow or white gold color effect.

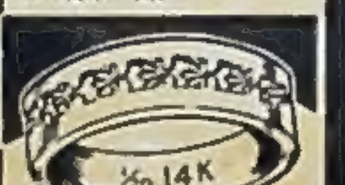
**109.** Men's signet ring with sparkling, simulated diamond. Heavy yellow gold color effect mounting.

**111.** Men's Viking cameo ring. 10Kt. gold top on solid Sterling Silver mounting.

**152.** Sweetheart ring. 2 simulated rubies on entertwined hearts. Yellow gold color effect.

**106.** Men's solitaire ring. Large, brilliant 2Kt-size simulated diamond. Fine heavy mounting.

**158.** Men's Indian head ring. White gold color effect. Also in boys' sizes.



**118.** Ladies' friendship and modern style wedding ring. 1/20 14Kt yellow gold filled or 12Kt gold plate. Also heavy Sterling Silver.

**147.** Massive compass ring. A handsome, well-made ring. In heavy white gold color effect.

**126.** Men's extra large Egyptian head ring, with snake on each side. 2 sparkling, simulated diamonds or red stones. Sterling Silver.

**167.** Ladies' exquisite cluster dinner ring. 3 large, simulated diamonds and many smaller stones. Sterling Silver or white gold color effect.

**168.** Ladies' exquisite engagement ring. 2 large, brilliant, simulated diamonds, 6 smaller stones. Sterling Silver or 1/30 14Kt gold.

**159.** Ladies' or men's locket ring. Holds 1/2" x 1/4" picture. Yellow or white gold color effect.

**149.** Ladies' dinner ring. Unusual design. Large, brilliant, simulated diamond, about 10 smaller stones. White gold color effect or Sterling Silver. Ring also comes in oval shape design.

**161.** Ladies' dinner ring. Gorgeous peacock design. 15 sparkling, simulated rubies, sapphires, emeralds. White or yellow gold color effect.

**129.** Men's solitaire ring. Brilliant, simulated 1Kt or 2Kt-size diamond. Sterling Silver.

**101.** Beautiful baby ring. Solid 10Kt solid yellow gold mounting.

**121.** Men's heavy Sterling Silver signet ring, suitable for engraving initials.

**154.** Ladies' birthstone ring. Gorgeous, square cut, 4Kt-size, simulated emerald. Sterling Silver or white gold color effect. Stone comes in all colors.

**151.** Men's ring. Simulated ruby in center, 2 simulated diamonds. Yellow gold color effect. Also with 3 white stones.

**142.** Men's U.S. Army insignia ring. Heavy Sterling Silver or yellow or white gold color effect.

**145.** Men's U.S. Navy insignia ring. Heavy Sterling Silver or yellow or white gold color effect.

**144.** Men's U.S. Marine Corps insignia ring. Heavy Sterling Silver or yellow or white gold color effect.

**143.** Men's U.S. Air Force insignia ring. Heavy Sterling Silver or yellow or white gold color effect.

**107.** Men's massive ring. Large, brilliant, simulated diamond, 2 smaller stones. White gold color effect.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# CAPTAIN SCIENCE

THE SECRET LABORATORY OF GORDON DANE, BETTER KNOWN AS CAPTAIN SCIENCE, AS HE, RIP AND LUANA RECEIVE A MESSAGE FROM THE ROBOT "BRAIN"...

*DANGER THREATENS EARTH FROM THE PLUTONIAN DEPTHS. IT COMES FROM OUT OF THE FUTURE.*

WHAT! THE FUTURE! HOW CAN WE COPE WITH THAT?

*I DO NOT KNOW. IT IS BEYOND MY POWER. I CAN ONLY TELL YOU WHERE TO GO....*

RIP, PREPARE THE FLYING SAUCER... LUANA, YOU CHECK THE SPACE SUITS. WE'LL LEAVE AS SOON AS I GET DIRECTIONS FROM THE "BRAIN."

HURTLING BACK OUT OF THE FUTURE CAME A FRIGHTENING THREAT TO OUR WORLD OF THE PRESENT. A GRIM DANGER TO ALL HUMANITY, IT EMANATED FROM THE DARK AND ICY PLANET *PLUTO*. COULD CAPTAIN SCIENCE, EVEN WITH THE AID OF RIP AND LUANA, HIS DEVOTED ASSISTANTS, AND HIS VAST KNOWLEDGE, WIN OVER THE SUPERSCIENCE OF THE FUTURE AND DESTROY THE DANGER WHICH CAME THROUGH THE--

*"TIME DOOR OF THROM."*

SOME HOURS LATER THE FLYING SAUCER ZOOMS INTO THE SKIES...

SET CONSTANTS FOR OVERDRIVE. THROW IN ANTI-GRAVS.

RIGHT, GORDON!

...AND AFTER A TRIP AT FORTY TIMES THE SPEED OF LIGHT, LANDS ON THE FRIGID AND BARREN SURFACE OF PLUTO...

THE SPACE PORTS OPEN AND THE THREE DARING DEFENDERS OF THE PLANET EARTH STEP OUT....

WE ARE ALMOST AT THE PLUTONIAN FORTRESS OF THROM. THE DIR-OMETER INDICATES STRAIGHT AHEAD.

REACHING THE BLOOD RED FORTRESS OF THROM THEY ARE UNABLE TO FIND AN ENTRANCE. BUT THAT DOESN'T STOP THEM...

I DON'T KNOW HOW *THEY* GET IN AND OUT, BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY FOR US. THAT IS TO ADJUST OUR ATOMIC BALANCE TO THE STRUCTURE OF THE WALLS.

BUT HAVE YOU THE FORMULA WORKED OUT?

YES. LET'S SEE. INFINITY OVER PI MINUS THE TWO QUADRANTS CUBED...

HOW DOES HE DO IT? HE'S SMARTER THAN AN ELECTRONIC BRAIN!

ADJUSTING THE ATOMETHERIZER TO THE DENSITY OF THE WALL, AND THEN TO THEIR OWN, CAPTAIN SCIENCE PERFORMS A *MIRACLE*...

WHY..WHY IT'S JUST AS IF WE HAD NO SUBSTANCE LIKE... LIKE GHOSTS!

RIGHT, YOU HAVEN'T,- WHILE YOU GO THROUGH THE WALL.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STRANGE WALL THEY FIND THEMSELVES IN A LONG CORRIDOR..

WE'RE ALMOST THERE! WHATEVER WE HAVE TO BATTLE AGAINST IS BEHIND THOSE DOORS.

LET'S GO! WE'LL NEVER FIND OUT STANDING HERE.

THROUGH THE DOORWAY THEY SEE AN ASTOUNDING SIGHT...

WH..WHAT IS IT?

I DON'T KNOW...

WE'RE SPOTTED. GET READY FOR *BATTLE!*

AS THE RADIATION RAY HITS THE ATTACKERS, AN AMAZING THING HAPPENS...

WHAT'LL WE DO NOW.. *EEE!* LOOK AT RIP!

*HE'S TURNING TO ICE!* THERE'S ONLY ONE THING! THE RADIATION RAY!

LOOK! THEY'RE MELTING!

IT MUST BE THAT THEY CAN'T STAND ANY SORT OF HEAT BECAUSE OF THE TOTAL ABSENCE OF WARMTH ON PLUTO!

THIS ONE IS STILL ALIVE! I'LL TRY THE TELEPATH ON HIM. PERHAPS WE CAN GET SOME INFORMATION FROM HIM.

GOOD IDEA! THAT *MACHINE* HAS ME BAFFLED!

OKAY, I'VE TUNED HIM IN...LISTEN!

*TIME MACHINE* WILL DESTROY...YOU... UNNHH!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

AS THE THREE EXCHANGE ASTONISHED GLANCES A WEIRD FIGURE MATERIALIZES IN THE MACHINE BEHIND THEM...

HOW CAN A TIME MACHINE BE DANGER-OUS TO EARTH?

THE STRANGE CREATURE STEPS FROM THE MACHINE AND GRABS LUANA...

WH..WHERE DID *HE* COME FROM?

DON'T MOVE OR THE GIRL WILL DIE!

WE EXPECTED YOU, CAPTAIN SCIENCE, AND WE ARE PREPARED. NOT EVEN YOU CAN COPE WITH THE WEAPONS WE *BUILD IN THE FUTURE.*

HE'S TAKING LUANA INTO THAT THING!

WE GO FOR A JOURNEY INTO THE FUTURE. THE GIRL IS OUR ASSURANCE THAT YOU WON'T DESTROY THE "MACHINE"...DO SO AND SHE IS LOST IN TIME FOREVER!

YOU, SCUM OF THE UNIVERSE! WE'LL BEAT YOU SOMEHOW!

I DON'T THINK SO!... GOOD-BYE, CAPTAIN SCIENCE!

THEY'RE GONE!

RIP, I'M GOING AFTER HER. I WANT YOU TO STAY HERE. IF I'M NOT BACK IN THREE HOURS, DESTROY THE "MACHINE." THE EARTH MUST BE SAVED!

ALL RIGHT...IF THOSE ARE YOUR ORDERS...I'LL... I'LL OBEY THEM. GOOD LUCK, GORDON.

FOR AN INSTANT THERE IS BLACKNESS AND THEN CAPTAIN SCIENCE STEPS FROM THE TIME MACHINE INTO THE *FUTURE*, AND CAPTIVITY...

BY SPACE! WHAT'S THIS?

SEIZE HIM!

...YOU ARE A BIGGER FOOL THAN I THOUGHT. YOU DID WHAT WE EXPECTED AND FOLLOWED THE GIRL. NOW WE SHALL DESTROY BOTH OF YOU.

SINCE I AM YOUR PRISONER, TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT.

VERY WELL. AT LAST WE OF PLUTO HAVE FOUND A WAY TO ESCAPE OUR ACCURSED PLANET AND REACH A PLACE WITH WARMTH AND LIGHT...

AND THAT IS WHY YOU WOULD DESTROY ALL LIFE ON *EARTH?*

YES, FOR WHEREVER WE GO WE ARE THE *MASTERS*... TAKE CARE OF HIM!

YES, THROM!

YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS...

WITHIN MINUTES, CAPTAIN SCIENCE IS FROZEN INTO A GIGANTIC BLOCK OF ICE, UNABLE TO MOVE A HAIR...

IN AN HOUR WE BOMBARD THE EARTH THROUGH THE *TIME-DOOR*, BUT FIRST WE WILL SEND THESE TWO BACK TO DIE WITH THE REST OF THE EARTHLINGS.

IT IS FORTUNATE HE COULD NOT DAMAGE THE TIME MACHINE. FOR WITHOUT THE ENERGY COMING FROM IT WE WOULD BE LOST.

BUT THE PLUTONIANS HAVE MADE ONE FATAL MISTAKE...

THEY LEFT OUR SPACE SUITS ON. IF I CAN PULL MY HAND OUT OF MY GLOVE AND CROSS THE HEATER WIRES IN MY SLEEVE I MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET LOOSE.

IT WORKED! NOW I'VE GOT TO GET LUANA FREE AND THEN TAKE CARE OF THOSE *FIENDS!*

SPRAYING THE ICE-BLOCK WHICH SURROUNDS LUANA WITH A *SHATTER-RAY* THE RESCUE IS COMPLETED...

GORDON! I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN.

I WOULD HAVE FOLLOWED YOU TO THE END OF TIME ITSELF.

AS THEY ESCAPE, THE PLUTONIANS COME FOR THEM...

AT LAST WE ARE READY. SOON EARTH WILL BE OURS... THROM! LOOK!

GET BEHIND, ME, LUANA!

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN GOOD OLD AMERICAN FISTS ARE BETTER THAN AN ATOM GUN!

FOR THIS YOU DIE!

NOT YET, MY PLUTONIAN BIG SHOT! NOT JUST YET!

GET HIM, GORDON!

SETTING UP A PROTECTIVE FORCE FIELD AGAINST THE DEADLY COLD CAPTAIN SCIENCE AND LUANA EXCHANGE SPACE SUITS WITH THE PLUTONIANS...

ALL RIGHT, LUANA. PICK ONE OF THEM UP AND THROW HIM OVER YOUR SHOULDER. WE'VE NO TIME TO LOOSE.

PICK HIM UP? I... I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN.

YOU CERTAINLY CAN. THE DIFFERENCE IN GRAVITY MAKES YOU AS STRONG AS TEN OF THEM, SEE....

OHH! THAT EXPLAINS HOW YOU HIT THEM SO HARD...

A MOMENT LATER THE TWO ENTER THE ROOM OF THE *TIME-DOOR*, CARRYING WHAT APPEARS TO BE THE EARTHLINGS...

BAH! THESE EARTHLINGS. THEY'RE DEAD. THEY ARE NOT AS STRONG AS WE THOUGHT.

WE WONDERED WHAT KEPT YOU. THE MACHINE IS READY. *THROW THEM IN.*

WE'LL THROW THEM ALL RIGHT...*AT YOU!*

RIGHT, GORDON!

INTO THE MACHINE! QUICK!

STOP THEM OR WE'RE LOST!

MEANWHILE FIVE HUNDRED YEARS BACK IN TIME, RIP SADLY PREPARES TO DESTROY THE TIME MACHINE...

THE THREE HOURS ARE UP. I...I'VE GOT TO.... PLUTONIANS! YOU KILLED MY BEST FRIENDS! I'LL FIX YOU!

HE DOESN'T KNOW US! JUMP! HURRY!

GORDON! LUANA! I...I THOUGHT YOU WERE PLUTONIANS. I..I ALMOST KILLED YOU!

BUT YOU DIDN'T. INSTEAD, TRAPPED SOMEWHERE IN THE *FUTURE* AND UNABLE TO GET OUT ARE THE ENEMIES OF EARTH.

SOMETIME LATER, AS THE FLYING SAUCER ZOOMS TOWARDS EARTH FROM PLUTO...

LOOK, THERE'S THE LAB.

MISSION COMPLETED! AND WE'RE STILL ALL TOGETHER.

THANK GOODNESS! IT WOULD HAVE BEEN AWFUL TO THINK NEITHER OF YOU WOULD BE BORN FOR ANOTHER FIVE HUNDRED YEARS.

THE END

THE METEORITE FROM OUTER SPACE PLUMMETED TO EARTH, BURYING ITSELF IN THE DARK JUNGLES OF AFRICA! WHEN ALL WAS STILL, A *THING OF HORROR* SLITHERED OUT OF ITS SLIMY, PITTED CORE...A MONSTER KNOWING A HUNGER WHICH COULD ONLY BE SATISFIED BY *HUMAN FOOD!* AND MANKIND IGNORED IT, BECAUSE IT DID NOT SUSPECT THE DEADLY DANGER OF.....

# "THE FLOWER OF DEATH!"

*PROF. JOHN GRAHAM, EMINENT ARCHEOLOGIST, IS IN HIS OFFICE ONE AFTERNOON, WHEN HIS COLLEAGUE, YOUNG DR. TEAGUE, INFORMS HIM OF THE GOOD NEWS...*

JOHN...THE MUSEUM'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVED OUR EXPEDITION TO AFRICA!

WONDERFUL! WE CAN START IMMEDIATELY!

*A MONTH LATER, THE TWO SCIENTISTS ARRIVE IN PORT AFRICA, WHERE THEY PAUSE LONG ENOUGH TO PICK UP NATIVE GUIDES BEFORE PROCEEDING INTO THE JUNGLE...*

REMEMBER...OUR JOB IS TO FIND A GIANT *METEORITE* THAT CRASHED NEAR THIS REGION... DR. TEAGUE AND I BELIEVE IT TO CONTAIN RADIUM ORE.

FOR WEEKS THE EXPEDITION STRUGGLES THROUGH THE TANGLED UNDERGROWTH...

BUHANA-- NO GO FURTHER... EVIL!

SHUT UP, M'MAMBI— WE'RE NEAR THE CRASH REGION NOW...THE *GEIGER-MULLER* COUNTER PROVES IT! LOOK! HUNDREDS OF DEAD ANIMALS!

THESE ANIMALS HAVE BEEN *SUCKED DRY!*

YES! THEY'RE STRIPPED OF ALL THEIR HARD BONY STRUCTURE !... WE'LL CAMP HERE TONIGHT!

IT LOOKS LIKE A FLOWER!... *A HUGE, FANTASTIC FLOWER* THAT'S ALIVE!

LATER THAT NIGHT...

A!!!!!!!!!!!!

W- WHAT WAS THAT? SOUNDED LIKE A SCREAM!

"DEATH FLOWER"--- WE GO...

COME BACK!!

LET THEM GO, RICHARD! PERHAPS IT'S BETTER THIS WAY! WE'LL SEARCH FOR THAT POOR DEVIL IN THE MORNING...

*THE NEXT DAY, LEAVING THEIR ASSISTANTS BEHIND IN CAMP, THE TWO MEN SET OUT ON THEIR QUEST...IT IS SOME HOURS LATER...*

THAT BODY-- UNDER THOSE GIANT PANSIES!---WE'VE FOUND HIM.

GET BACK!! *T-THAT HORROR IS COMING AFTER US!!*

IT'S CARRYING US TOWARD THAT BIG ROCK! *IT'S THE METEORITE!!*

*THE CREATURE PLUNGES THROUGH AN OPENING IN THE METEORITE AND DUMPS THE MEN ONTO THE FLOOR...*

A MONSTER *TWENTY* FEET TALL! THERE'S A STRANGE BUZZING IN MY HEAD!

MENTAL TELEPATHY!

EARTHMEN! I AM YARTH..THE LAST OF MY RACE... I HAVE COME FROM OUTER SPACE TO SEEK FOOD. I NEED PHOSPHORUS!

IT WAS *YOU* WHO TOOK THE PHOSPHORUS FROM THE BONES OF THOSE ANIMALS!

YES! BUT NOW THAT I HAVE FOUND CREATURES LIKE YOU, I SHALL USE YOU TO MAKE ME GROW AND RE-MULTIPLY INTO A NEW *SUPER-RACE* ON EARTH!

...THOSE GIANT FLOWERS WE SAW NEAR THE METEORITE, T-THEY'RE GROWING INTO HORRORS LIKE THIS!

WHILE TEAGUE AND GRAHAM WATCH HORRIFIED, THE MONSTER FLOWER GRABS A HUGE ROARING TIGER FROM A ROW OF CAGES NEARBY, AND. . .

RR-O-O-O-O-W-R-R!!

GOOD HEAVENS! IT'S SUCKING IT'S LIFE OUT!

BEFORE GRAHAM CAN STOP HIM, TEAGUE FLINGS HIMSELF AT THE MONSTER ONLY TO BE GRABBED BY ANOTHER FLOWER MONSTER AND CARRIED HELPLESSLY TOWARD ITS MASTER...

STOP!.. I'LL HELP YOU GET FOOD-- HUMAN FOOD--IF YOU RELEASE HIM!

FREE THE EARTHMAN MY HUNGER IS SATISFIED-- FOR NOW!

WHEW! FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE CURTAINS FOR ME!

YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.. HURRY... GET OUT OF HERE!

JOHN.... PLEASE BE CAREFUL!! WAIT FOR MY SIGNAL!!

TEAGUE, BACK IN CAMP, TELLS HIS MEN WHAT HAS HAPPENED... THEY COAT THEMSELVES WITH LEAD FOILING, AND DIG A HUGE DITCH ALL AROUND THE METEORITE...

HURRY! THAT MONSTER MIGHT SENSE OUR PHOSPHORUS EMANATIONS EVEN THROUGH THIS PROTECTIVE COATING!

HERE IS THE JAR OF PHOSPHORUS YOU WANTED, SIR.

GOOD! NOW I'LL LOWER IT INTO THE DITCH!

HAND ME THAT BLOWTORCH! IF THE MONSTER SENDS GRAHAM AFTER THAT PHOSPHORUS IN THE DITCH, WELL AND GOOD--IF IT'S THE FLOWER CREATURE, WE'LL BE READY!

*DAWN FINDS THE SMALL GROUP WAITING IN TENSE SILENCE... SUDDENLY...*

THE CREATURE IS COMING!

ALL RIGHT, MEN--*THIS IS IT!!*

*THE FLOWER MENACE GLIDES NEARER AND NEARER... AND WITH A TERRIBLE CRASH OF WRITHING TENTACLES--FALLS INTO THE DITCH!*

IT'LL NEVER GET OUT IN A MILLION YEARS!

WHERE IS GRAHAM?

*HERE I AM, RICHARD THROW ME THE BLOW-TORCH! THERE IS A CHANGE OF PLANS! THE MONSTER IS HUNGRY AGAIN--*

*--GOT IT!! GOOD-BYE RICHARD--EVERYONE! WAIT FOR THE EXPLOSION!*

JOHN GRAHAM STAGGERS INTO THE METEORITE--A FEW SECONDS LATER---

BARROOMMM!!!

AFTER THE SMOKE CLEARS, THE MEN CROSS TO THE OTHER SIDE...

DO YOU THINK PROF. GRAHAM GOT CLEAR OF THE EXPLOSION?

I DON'T KNOW! HE HASN'T COME OUT!!

UGH..THAT FLOWER MONSTER IS TORN TO SHREDS..*IT'S* DEAD ALL RIGHT!

DR. TEAGUE.. COME QUICKLY.. IT'S PROF. GRAHAM!!

OH--IF I HAD ONLY KNOWN THAT *THIS* WAS HIS PLAN--IF I HAD ONLY KNOWN!!

HOW COULD YOU, SIR? IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!

IT WASN'T ACCIDENTAL! THE MONSTER WAS LUMINESCENT! IT EVEN GLOWS IN DEATH! SO, IT *HAD* TO CONSIST OF PHOSPHORUS BECAUSE ONLY PHOSPHORUS PRODUCES THIS TYPE OF GLOW! WHEN WE FOUND THAT IT NEEDED PHOSPHORUS FOR FOOD..OUR DOUBTS WERE OVER!

THE MONSTER, THEREFORE, COULD BE DESTROYED BY OUR BLOW-TORCH BECAUSE PHOSPHORUS EXPLODES VIOLENTLY WITH HEAT!

NO... *JOHN GRAHAM DELIBERATELY DIED SO THAT WE COULD LIVE!* SEE THAT MONSTROSITY DOWN THERE? THINK OF ALL THE NEW FIELDS OF KNOWLEDGE THAT WILL BE DEVELOPED FROM THIS DISCOVERY...

I HOPE SO... I... GOOD LORD..... *LOOK...!!*

*THE TWO MEN JUMP HEADLONG INTO THE PIT, AND...*

IT... IT'S CHANGED INTO A FLOWER! BUT WHY? *WHY?*

IT LOST CONTACT WITH THE MONSTER. BUT IT'S STILL ALIVE AND GROWING--- AND *READY TO BECOME A HORROR WHEN AND IF THE TIME* IS RIPE!!

WE'LL TAKE IT BACK TO CIVILIZATION AND SHOW THE WORLD WHAT IT OTHERWISE WOULD NEVER HAVE BELIEVED! I HAVE A STRANGE DISQUIETING FEELING THAT MANKIND'S DESTINY SOMEHOW HANGS ON THIS *FLOWER*--- I WONDER? WHAT DO *YOU* THINK?

THE END

# SCIENTIFIC FAKERS

FROM out of the dim and forgotten lore of the past come amazing stories of miracles and wonders that have never been explained satisfactorily to the layman. To this day there is great belief in the supernatural. We hear tales of wonder-workers and magicians who can perform marvels, of men and women who can conjure up the spirits of the dead. Yet, under the searching light of modern science, these unexplainable phenomena take on a different aura and become readily understandable. They are revealed to us as mere tricks of clever deception that were able to fool millions of the ignorant and uneducated.

One of the earliest of these deceptions, was the tomb of the great Assyrian King, Bal. When it was broken into by Xerxes, King of Persia, to be looted and demolished, the invaders found a warning sign on the coffin within which Bal reposed in a shallow bath of oil.

The warning read "Death and eternal misery to he who violates this tomb and does not refill the casket." The superstitious Xerxes, afraid of what might befall him if he failed to obey the inscription, ordered his slaves to fill the coffin to the brim with oil.

The coffin was filled and the slaves left, only to be called back by the angry King a few hours later. To everyone's mystification the oil in the coffin was back to its original level. Once more it was filled, and again, a few hours later, it was back to the level it had been at when they first arrived.

Now the coffin was carefully examined for an outlet or a leak. But no matter how they searched, none could be found. Xerxes in superstitious fear ordered the tomb to be sealed and left.

Only recently has the real secret of Bal's coffin come to light. Carefully camouflaged and built into the side of the coffin was a siphon. When the coffin was filled to the brim, the oil was forced into the siphon opening into a curved tube that ran upward. When air pressure forced the oil over this it ran into a subterranean reservoir.

When the slaves filled the coffin they raised the level of the liquid, and automatically started the siphon working. The weight of the falling oil drew a slow but constant stream from the coffin and gradually brought it back to its original level.

Still another ancient Marvel was the "Altar of Isis" on which stood a statue of the Goddess. In her hands she held a large urn which she held as if to pour liquid out of it into a large basin below.

When a fire was kindled by worshippers in the basin, the statue, after a time had passed, would cause wine to pour on the fire to show that their prayers had been heard.

This was an apparent miracle as there was nothing near, or around the statue from which the wine could come.

Again the priests used a natural law of science to deceive their ignorant fellows. Below the base of the statue was a hollow compartment made airtight. It was separated from the basin on the altar by a very thin partition. Thus a fire could be built in the basin with no one suspecting there was anything beneath it.

Below the air chamber was still another hollowed out section in which wine was stored. From this container a pipe ran through the body of the statue to the jug.

When a fire was started, it heated the air in the chamber below the basin. The air would expand, and in expanding, force the wine up the pipe and out the urn, creating what seemed like a miracle. This is the principle, discovered much later, that hot air expands and can exert tremendous pressure.

During the middle ages even greater deceptions were practiced on the superstitious people of the time. Sorcerers, wizards and astrologers were able to live well on the ignorant beliefs they fostered.

One of their greatest feats was to produce ghosts. The wizard would build a fire and after much mystic incantation and weird actions throw various powders and chemicals upon it. The fire gave off a dense smoke. On the smoke there would appear images of demons, ghosts, giants, etc. Those who saw it accepted the phenomena as the real thing. Actually, science was the basis of the apparitions. The method used was the great-great grandaddy of the magic lantern of today.

The images seen by the frightened devotees of the sorcerer were actually projected on the screen formed by the smoke. To do this they used concave mirrors and crude lenses to throw the pictures on the improvised screen. A confederate hidden somewhere in the darkened hall manipulated the device.

To keep snoopers from investigating the wizard made all who watched stand within a magic circle under pain of instant death should they step out of it.

As time went on and people grew more educated and less superstitious the miracles worked by the charlatans and wonder-workers became inexplicable and less easy to explain. And, of course, there were millions of people ready to believe what the fakirs wanted them to.

Only a scant hundred years ago, a Frenchman astounded all of Europe with his amazing exhibitions. He had a mystery called the "Burning Oven."

In an iron compartment a fire was kindled and allowed to burn until there was a temperature of seven hundred degrees inside it. Then, the miracle worker, Julian Charbert, would step forward with two large steaks in each hand. They were raw.

He would enter the oven and close the door behind him as his astounded spectators gasped in fear and astonishment. He would stay within the compartment until both steaks were cooked. Then he would emerge, untouched by the flames or heat.

The oven itself stood on raised legs and there was no other way in or out of it except by the door at the front, which was at all times plainly visible.

Long after Charbert's death his secret remained to baffle investigators. Only ten years ago did science find out how he accomplished his apparent miracle.

His secret was a simple one based on the fact that heat rises. The temperature was always taken over the fire itself and not around the lower sides of the oven. So, while the upper part of the chamber became extremely hot, the lower part of the oven was comparatively cool. The oven was very large and the fire was kindled directly in the center.

When Charbert entered and closed the doors he quickly hung the steaks on hooks near the ceiling of the chamber, and then dropped to the floor, pulling a heavy hood over his head. The hood was concealed under his coat. Cut into the bottom of the oven were airholes, presumably to let the fire burn. Through these Charbert breathed until the steaks were done.

By the time they were ready, the upper part of the oven had reached the terrific temperature of seven hundred degrees fahrenheit. Grabbing the steaks from the hooks, he would fling open the door and leap out unhurt by his experience.

To this very day, we have men who come forth and claim to be able to do the supernatural. And we still have many who believe implicitly in what these men do or say, and will even argue they saw the magical feat with their own eyes, and that no trickery was involved.

Unfortunately, every one of these so called wizards, when investigated thoroughly, proved no more than a trickster, who using the principles of science, cleverly was able to fool those who witnessed his tricks.

One of the great feats of magic still done today, is the one practiced by Hindu fakirs who allow themselves to be buried alive. Some of them have even come to America and performed their wonders here.

A large hole is dug in the ground, and the fakir, in a trance is placed in a wooden coffin which is lowered into the pit.

Earth is shoveled over him and the soil packed down tight. The spot is then constantly watched and guarded to make sure the fakir is not moved.

Sometimes the coffin remains below the ground for several days, sometimes only for hours. Then the box is removed, and the fakir, still in a trance, taken out. His assistants work over him and he miraculously comes back to life, unharmed and well.

There are two explanations of this seeming wonder. One, used for the short burials, is sheer control of nerve and will. By remaining absolutely quiet and in a state of semi-hypnotism, a fakir can exist on very little air for a long time.

The other method, used for long term burials, is a sheer swindle. The charlatan pretends he must spend several days in getting ready for the great ordeal. This gives his assistants a chance to dig a secret tunnel to the "grave" from a nearby hut or shelter.

The coffin has a loose side. As soon as he is lowered and the earth covers him, the fakir pushes it out and breaks through the thin wall of earth between the pit and the tunnel. He crawls up this to the hut and remains until ready to be dug up. Then he gets into the coffin, an assistant replaces the coffin's side and the tunnel is filled leaving no evidence of the deception.

And so with the use of science, the gullible, all through the ages, have been fooled into believing that they have actually witnessed miracles; when they in reality, have been subject to the clever use of principles of pure science. Scientific investigation has proved this time and time again.

# CAPTAIN SCIENCE

THREATENING THE WORLD WITH DISASTER FROM THE BURNING HEART OF THE SAHARA, A NEW AND TERRIBLE DANGER CONFRONTS *CAPTAIN SCIENCE*, MASTER OF KNOWLEDGE GREATER THAN ANY OTHER HUMAN. BRINGING SUPER-SCIENCE TO BEAR AGAINST THIS UNKNOWN EVIL BROUGHT BACK FROM THE DAWN OF TIME, HE AND RIP FIND THEMSELVES IN A CONTEST OF ---

*"SCIENCE VS. SORCERY..."*

BY THE ANCIENT KNOWLEDGE OF AZAREAL I WILL SOON HAVE ALL THE WORLD AT MY FEET. GO MY LOYAL SOLDIERS AND BRING ANOTHER SHEIK UNDER MY BANNER. GO AND BRING MORE POWER TO *ISHAK MOABDIL!*

HIGH IN A MINARET HIDDEN DEEP IN THE SAHARA, A STRANGE AND ANCIENT FIGURE ENGAGES IN *WEIRD RITES...*

AND TWENTY MILES MILES AWAY-ON THE BURNING DESERT...

LOOK! ONE OF THE *BLACK RAIDERS!*

THIS TIME HE IS ALONE. LET US CAPTURE HIM AND MAKE HIM TALK!.. *RIDE!*

IF ALLAH WILLS, THIS TIME WE WILL FIND OUT WHO IS BEHIND THESE *RAIDS OF DEATH!*

I LIKE IT NOT! HE DOESN'T MOVE.

BUT WHEN THE SHEIK AND HIS MEN REACH THE SOLITARY FIGURE A DEADLY SURPRISE AWAITS THEM...

WE ARE LOST! IT IS A TRICK!

WHERE DO THEY COME FROM? THE *TALES OF BLACK MAGIC* ARE TRUE!

DO NOT KILL THEIR LEADER! ISHAK, OUR MASTER, WANTS HIM ALIVE!

THE FIGHT AGAINST DESPERATE ODDS IS SOON OVER AND THE SHEIK IS TAKEN....

IT IS THE WILL OF ALLAH! WE SURRENDER!

TO FIGHT AGAINST *JINNI* AND *DEMONS* IS MADNESS. WE ARE AT YOUR MERCY.

WHAT DO YOU WISH OF ME?

THAT IS FOR MY MASTER TO SAY. SOON ALL OF THE TRIBES OF THE DESERT WILL BE HIS. IT IS FOR HIM TO DECIDE...

AND TEN THOUSAND MILES AWAY IN NEW MEXICO, CAPTAIN SCIENCE, RIP AND LUANA GET A WARNING FROM THE ROBOT BRAIN...

*A NEW THREAT ARISES FOR YOU TO COMBAT, CAPTAIN SCIENCE. A MAD-MAN DEEP IN THE SAHARA WOULD USE HIS EVIL KNOWLEDGE TO ENSLAVE ALL MANKIND...*

WHAT ARE WE TO DO?

*YOU MUST GO TO THE HIDE-OUT OF ISHAK MOABDIL AND DESTROY HIM BEFORE HE UPSETS THE DELICATE BALANCE OF WORLD PEACE AND STARTS A THIRD WORLD WAR!*

RIP, GET THINGS READY WHILE I GET FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE "BRAIN." WE'LL LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!

WHAT ABOUT ME? CAN'T I GO?

NO, LUANA. YOU MUST STAY AND WATCH THE LABORATORY...RIP, DON'T FORGET TO PLACE NEW POWER-PACKS IN MY RAY-BELT.

USING THEIR *FLYING SAUCER*, CAPTAIN SCIENCE AND RIP ARRIVE AT ISHAK'S HEADQUARTERS IN MINUTES...

THIS IS THE PLACE DESCRIBED BY THE "BRAIN." IT LOOKS DESERTED.

IT SURE DOES!

A FEW FEET FROM THE CRUMBLING ENTRANCE, THE TWO DARING ADVENTURERS MEET A MYSTIFYING ATTACK...

DESERTED! WE'RE SURROUNDED FROM OUT OF NOWHERE!

THE MORE WE SHOOT, THE MORE THERE ARE! BLAST THEM!

OVERWHELMED BY SUPERIOR NUMBERS THE TWO GO DOWN FIGHTING...

DO NOT KILL THEM. SAVE THEM FOR THE *MASTER!*

THERE'S NO END TO THEM...OHH!

THE TWO REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS AND FIND THEMSELVES IN A DUNGEON BENEATH THE ANCIENT PILE....

OHH! WH..WHAT HAPPENED?

I DON'T KNOW. IT SEEMED LIKE A WHOLE *ARMY* HIT US. FOR EVERYONE WE KILLED ANOTHER TOOK HIS PLACE!

WE'RE IN FOR IT NOW, GORDON. THEY TOOK OUR RAY-GUNS. WE CAN'T GET OUT....

MAYBE WE CAN.. THIS STONE MIGHT HELP... CALL THE GUARD, RIP.

A MOMENT LATER...

WATER! PLEASE! WATER! GUARD, BRING ME WATER!

HE'S COMING!

WHAT DO YOU WANT, SLAVES? I HAVEN'T... *UNHH!*

WOW! WHAT A PITCH!

THE BEST *BEAN-BALL* I EVER THREW! BASEBALL IS A REAL HANDY GAME TO KNOW.

THUD!

SECURING THE KEYS TO THE CELL DOOR THEY ARE SOON FREE...

WHEW! HE WEIGHS A TON!

I HOPE HE ENJOYS IT IN THERE BETTER THAN WE DID!

CAUTIOUSLY THEY FEEL THEIR WAY TO THE UPPER FLOOR OF THE STRONGHOLD WHERE THEY FIND THEMSELVES IN A QUANDRY...

GORDON, WHICH DOOR DO WE PICK?

THE MIDDLE ONE. THAT OUGHT TO LEAD TO AN ENTRANCE!

BUT WHEN THEY OPEN THE DOOR...

OH! WHAT A CHOICE! RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THEM!

HEAD THROUGH THEM AND UP THOSE STAIRS! WE CAN FIGHT THEM OFF THERE!

DASHING UP THE NARROW STAIRWAY, CAPTAIN SCIENCE REACHES THE TOP... AND TURNS...

ALL RIGHT, BOYS, COME AND GET ME!

TAKE THEM! THE MASTER WILL HAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THIS!

GORDON, THEY'RE COMING FROM BEHIND!

SURROUNDED... GORDON AND RIP LEAP TO THE BALCONY RAIL IN DESPERATION...

WE'RE TRAPPED! THEY'VE GOT US!

NOT YET! FOLLOW ME, AND GRAB ONE OF THOSE DRAPES.

YEEOW:! GOT IT!

STOP THEM!

USING THE DRAPES, THE TWO SWING ACROSS THE ROOM TO ELUDE THEIR PURSUERS...

THOSE STAIRS ON THE OTHER BALCONY... HEAD UP THEM!

RIGHT! YIPPEE!

BY A MIRACLE THEY MAKE IT...

I DON'T KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING, BUT ANY-PLACE IS BETTER THAN DOWN THERE!

WE'LL PROBABLY RUN INTO A *DEAD END!* AND THAT'S THE WAY WE'LL END UP... *DEAD!*

BURSTING THROUGH THE DOOR AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRWAY, THEY FIND THEMSELVES IN THE PRESENCE OF THE *MADMAN* THEY CAME TO DESTROY....

SO, CAPTAIN SCIENCE, YOU FINALLY REACHED ME... BUT UNFORTUNATELY YOU CAN DO NOTHING. MY MEN ARE EVERY-WHERE!

AS THE EVIL ISHAK POINTS TO THE TOY SOLDIERS, THEIR LIVING REPLICAS APPEAR TO ATTACK CAPTAIN SCIENCE AND RIP....

KILL THEM!

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO STOP THEM! THROW UP A *FORCE FIELD* BY USING MY *POWER-PACK!*

GORDON! YOU CAN'T! I *FORGOT* TO PUT IT IN YOUR BELT!

YOU FORGOT...! THAT MEANS WE NEVER HAD ANY POWER!

*RIP, LOOK!* WE'RE SAFE! THEY CAN'T HURT US!

YOU... YOU *KNOW!*... STAY BACK! DON'T TOUCH ME!

THE ARROWS WENT RIGHT THROUGH GORDON! I DON'T GET IT!

STAY AWAY... AIEEE!

LOOK OUT!

PIERCED BY THE SHARP, KNIFE-LIKE SPEARS OF HIS TOY SOLDIERS ISHAK DIES AND...

THE GIANTS! THEY'RE DISAPPEARING!

ISHAK IS DEAD! THE DANGER IS OVER!

HOW... HOW? WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

THOSE MEN WERE NEVER REAL! THEY WERE PRODUCED BY MASS HYPNOTISM AND THE AID OF THESE TOYS.

BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW?

BECAUSE YOU FORGOT TO PUT IN A POWER-PACK. WHEN WE ARRIVED WE WERE ABLE TO KILL THEM, YET OUR WEAPONS REALLY WEREN'T WORKING, ALTHOUGH WE THOUGHT THEY WERE.

I SEE, BUT THEY WERE ABLE TO KILL OTHERS.

ONLY BECAUSE THE VICTIMS BELIEVED THEY WERE REAL. THEY WERE ACTUALLY *KILLED BY FRIGHT!*

A LITTLE LATER...

WHEW! THAT WAS A WILD ONE. I GUESS OLD ISHAK MET HIS JUST DESERTS.

YES, RIP, HE WAS KILLED BY THE PHANTOMS HE INVENTED. ONCE AGAIN OUR WORLD IS SAFE!

THE END

DEADLY DEMONS FROM A WORLD LONG SINCE DISAPPEARED! SILENT AND SWIFT ATTACKS ON SPACE PASSENGER SHIPS BY STRANGE CREATURES SUCH AS THE WORLD OF TOMORROW NEVER DREAMED OF! IS IT ANY WONDER THAT SATURN'S TOP PRIVATE EYE, THAT TWO-FISTED EX-COP, BRANT CRAIG, WAS UP AGAINST THE TOUGHEST CASE OF HIS SLAM-BANG CAREER IN THE SPACE ADVENTURE OF....

# BRANT CRAIG

## SHARK PIRATES OF PISCES

IT'S BRANT CRAIG--AND HIS RAY GUN'S USELESS AGAINST THESE... THESE....

FIRE ALL YOU LIKE, CRAIG,-- NO HARM CAN COME TO US WITH THAT TOY. BUT TO YOU.....

SOLAR SKYWAYS

IN A MOMENT, WE'LL EXPLAIN HOW THIS ALL STARTED, BUT RIGHT NOW, BRANT CRAIG, INTERPLANETARY DETECTIVE, IS PLENTY BUSY....

CALL THE "HOOK"--HE'LL SLICE THIS FOOL TO RIBBONS FOR INTERFERING.

IF I CAN ONLY REACH MY RADAR-SCOPE TO SUMMON THE SECURITY PATROL. AH....

THE TINY RADAR RAY IS PICKED UP BY THE SECURITY PATROL ON THE SECRET CHANNEL...

IT'S MAJOR CRAIG, USING THE ARMY CHANNEL. HE'S IN TROUBLE.

T. TROUBLE... CRAIG--SOLAR AIRWAYS--DIMENSION--ELEVEN

MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE STRICKEN SPACE SHIP...

I'LL SLICE YOU FROM EAR TO EAR!

YOU SURE AIN'T KIDDING, PAL! BUT LOOK OUT THERE!

THE SECURITY PATROL! WE MUST FLEE. THEY HAVE A *PARALYZORAY.*

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE DISTRACTION, BRANT SWINGS INTO ACTION...

DOWN YOU GO, FRIEND. GET BACK THERE, MISS.

YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS. WE'LL BE BACK.

YOU'D BETTER BRING YOUR FRIENDS WITH YOU.

OUTSIDE, THE SECURITY PATROL IS SURPRISED TO SEE...

LOOK, CAPTAIN-- IT'S GOT A LONG TUBE. IT MUST HAVE ATTACHED ITSELF TO THE SPACE LINER.

WE'LL NEVER CATCH THEM. ORDER THE SOLAR SKYWAYS 'PLANE DOWN!

WHEN THE SPACE LINER LANDS...

WE GOT YOUR MESSAGE, BRANT, BUT USING SECRET ARMY CHANNELS WILL GET YOU IN TROUBLE.

NOT AGAINST AN ENEMY! I NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE THOSE CREATURES BEFORE. WAIT, HERE'S BERING, THE LINE'S GENERAL MANAGER.

CAPTAIN, GET ALOFT AGAIN. THOSE PIRATES OF PISCES JUST STRUCK AT AN URANIUM FREIGHTER.

AND I'M GOING *COOKOO!* HEY, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GIRL? I WANTED TO MEET HER.

WHAT! I'M ON MY WAY!

BUT THE MYSTERIOUS BEAUTY CANNOT NOT BE FOUND, NOR CAN THE STRANGE INVADERS, WHO CONTINUE TO TERRORIZE THE AIRLANES...

ACCORDING TO THIS LIST, HER NAME'S POLLY PILLET.

PILLET? SHE MUST BE OLD DOC PILLET'S DAUGHTER. HE'S THE SCIENTIST. LISTEN TO THAT NEWS.

FIVE TIMES WITHIN AN HOUR THESE INVADERS HAVE STRUCK. BUT SUDDENLY, THEY STREAKED THROUGH THE STRATO-BARRIER AND DISAPPEARED

LOOKS LIKE THE GRAND COUNCIL WILL HAVE TO MEET. MAYBE THIS IS *WAR!*

WAR NOTHING. THEY'RE OUTLAWS OF SOME SORT. I'M HIRING YOU RIGHT NOW CRAIG, TO GET THEM! THIS WILL RUIN EVERY AIRLINE IN THE SYSTEM. NO ONE WILL RIDE, NOR SHIP FREIGHT.

I'M NOT THE KIND TO TURN DOWN BAZOOMA.* ONE THING IS SURE, THESE GUYS DEPEND ON *SURPRISE.*

IT SEEMS SO. I'LL BE AT HOME IF YOU WANT TO REPORT TO ME.

*SATURN MONEY...

AS BRANT GOES TO HIS OFFICE...

THERE'S SOMEONE IN THERE! AND WAITING FOR ME WITH A *GUN!*

THEY'RE NOT SO SMART. STANDING AGAINST A LIGHT WELL, THIS SHOULD DO IT!

OW! Y-I--DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS YOU, MR. CRAIG.

BRANT TO YOU, MISS. SO WE MEET AT LAST. YOUR POLLY PILLET!

HOW... HOW... DID YOU KNOW?

A PRIVATE EYE KNOWS ALL AND SEES ALL. WHY THE ROD?

WHEN I GOT HOME SOMEONE TRIED TO GET IN THE DOOR. I GRABBED DAD'S GUN AND RAN OUT THE BACK WAY. YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME, MR. CRAIG... I MEAN BRANT--*DAD'S MISSING!*

HE SENT ME TO VENUS TO GET THESE ANCIENT PAPERS. YOU KNOW OUR SOLAR LANES ARE GETTING SO CROWDED HE WAS SEEKING NEW AIR ROUTES IN THE SUBSTRATO WELL, HE CAME ACROSS SOMETHING THAT HAS TO DO WITH THE *LOST LAKE OF LU-ARNO.*

YOUR DAD WAS WORKING FOR THE AIR COMBINE, WASN'T HE?

YES, AND SOMEBODY WANTED TO GET THESE PAPERS. BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THESE SPACE SHIPS SHOULD BE ATTACKED. OH, I HOPE THEY HAVEN'T MURDERED HIM!

OVER PAPERS? NAW. SAY, THIS IS FUNNY. YOUR FATHER THINKS THERE'S LIFE ON OLD PISCES. THE GRAND COUNCIL SAYS IT'S NOTHING BUT WATER AND LAVA.

THEY'RE WRONG! DAD FOUND--*LOOK OUT!*

AS BRANT WHIRLS, LETHAL FUMES OF *MAGNOGAS* ENVELOPE HIM AND THE GIRL, HE FALLS TO THE FLOOR UNCONSCIOUS...

I--(CHOKE)--(CHOKE) THE WINDOW...

TOO LATE, CRAIG--THIS IS ONE CASE YOU'LL NEVER SOLVE.

WHEN BRANT COMES TO, HE IS ALONE!

WHEW! WHAT HAPPENED? POLLY--WHERE IS SHE? AND WHAT'S THIS?

THIS BEATS ME. I'LL RUN IT OVER TO THE "SECURITY TESTING LABORATORY."

REALIZING THE URGENCY OF THE SITUATION BRANT GETS INTO HIS SPECIAL JET SPACE SUIT HE IS AUTHORIZED TO WEAR ONLY ON ARMY ASSIGNMENTS....

AT THE LAB, BRANT MAKES AN ASTONISHING DISCOVERY...

THIS BEATS ME, BRANT--IF I DIDN'T THINK IT IMPOSSIBLE, I'D SAY IT WAS *EXTINCT LAVA*. BUT...

LAVA--THEN THE OLD PROFESSOR WAS RIGHT... THANKS, CHUM,--IF ANYONE'S LOOKING FOR ME, I'M ON MY WAY TO PISCES.

I HOPE COLONEL HUSTIS ISN'T PROWLING AROUND. IF HE SEES THIS SUIT AGAIN, IT'LL BE PRIVATE INSTEAD OF MAJOR BRANT CRAIG. BUT IF MY HUNCH IS RIGHT...

BRANT MAKES HIS WAY UNCERTAINLY ACROSS THE DESOLATE WASTES OF PISCES...

NO WONDER NOBODY BOTHERS COMING HERE. NOTHING COULD LIVE IN STUFF LIKE THIS.

SUDDENLY, THERE IS A WHINING NOISE ABOVE HIM. STARTLED, BRANT LOOKS UP TO SEE THE PIRATE SPACE SHIP HEADING FOR CERTAIN DISASTER...

IT'S THAT MYSTERY SHIP--*I'M DUCKING OUT OF HERE!*

THERE'S A LAKE UNDER THAT LAVA. BUT HOW CAN THEY SURVIVE? I'VE GOT IT--THAT TUBE GIVES THEM AIR! WELL, LOOKS LIKE MY JET SPACE SUIT IS COMING IN HANDY. THEY'D NEVER FIGURE ANYONE CAN GET UP THAT HIGH.

BUT AS THE STRANGE CRAFT NOSES INTO THE SOFT LAVA ASH, WATER SUDDENLY SPOUTS IN A THUNDEROUS GEYSER!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S AT THE END OF THIS TRAIL, BUT BAZOOMA IS BAZOOMA-- AND BERING WILL PAY ME PLENTY.

DOWN..DOWN..BRANT GOES AT A DIZZY SPEED--TO COME OUT IN THE INTERIOR OF THE PIRATE SHIP.

WHEW, WHAT A RIDE! OH, OH, *COMPANY!*

THIS TIME I WON'T USE A RAY GUN, PAL. MY FISTS NEVER FAIL.

OOF-- "HOOK" WILL KILL-- *OOF!*

AS THE WONDERING BRANT STEPS OUT OF THE MYSTERY SHIP...

HOLY SMOKES! WHAT WATER PRESSURE AGAINST THESE WALLS. WHAT KIND OF A PLACE IS THIS?

HOOK, HURRY-- THE "TIGER SHARK" WANTS YOU. WE MUST MAKE READY--TO RAID AGAIN!

AS BRANT KNOCKS HIS ADVERSARY UNCONSCIOUS, *THE MAN'S HEAD COMES OFF!*

THIS..THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE. I'VE SEEN HIS FACE BEFORE IN MY HISTORY BOOKS WHEN I WAS A KID. IT'S *CAPTAIN HOOK THE PIRATE!* AND THIS FIN--IT HAS A CHARCOAL (CARBON) PELLET IN IT. NO WONDER THESE GUYS COULD BREATHE..IT'S JUST LIKE A GAS MASK.

YOU HAVE LEARNED TOO MUCH, PILLET-- YOU AND YOUR DAUGHTER. YOU DIE! THEN CRAIG DIES--AND MY SECRET IS SAFE.

WHO.. WHO ARE YOU?

LOOK," TIGER SHARK", THAT IS NOT THE "HOOK"!

AS THE ALARM IS SOUNDED, BRANT SWINGS INTO ACTION...

THIS WILL CUT OFF YOUR AIR SUPPLY.

I...I...

AS "TIGER SHARK" FRANTICALLY GASPS FOR AIR, HE REMOVES HIS SHARK HEAD MASK...

BERING!

CRAIG--QUICKLY--HE'S DYING. WE MUST GET AWAY WHILE THE OTHERS ARE STILL SURPRISED.

LOOK-- HE FLIES!

LATER IN COLONEL HUSTIS' OFFICE, PROF. PILLET TELLS HIS STRANGE STORY... BERING WANTED TO TERRORIZE THE OTHER SOLAR FREIGHT LINES OUT OF BUSINESS, BUT WHEN HE DISCOVERED I HAD NOT FOUND LUARNO, BUT TERRA-FIRMA, THE LOST EARTH, HE KIDNAPPED ME...

AND MADE DAD REVEAL THE SECRET OF DAVY JONES' LOCKER.

YOU MEAN THAT WAS IT?

YES, AND WITH CARBON PELLETS BROUGHT CAPTAIN HOOK AND HIS PIRATES BACK TO LIFE AND MADE THEM DO HIS BIDDING. WITHOUT IT, THEY'LL DIE.

AND THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO ME WHEN I SAW POLLY ON THAT SOLAR SPACE SHIP THAT DAY. I'LL BE SEEIN' YOU, PAL.

THE END...

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